

HEALTH  
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C.R. 17

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ST. GERIANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Year 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for 1944: this report is an interim one and will undoubtedly be followed next year by a much fuller one, surveying the general circumstances of the District during the past five or six years.

Certain restrictions imposed during the last four years have been removed and population figures, extensions of public ability undertakings, water supply and sewerage extensions may be referred to.

Section A. Statistics.

Population - The estimated population for the year is 15,700.  
Area in Acres 48,400.

The population is mainly employed in Agriculture and Market Gardening. A Cattle Market is regularly held at Callington in the centre of an Agricultural area.

Villages on the South Coast are largely patronized as holiday resorts in the summer and a number of employees in Devonport Dockyard and the ordnance departments at Bull Point and Ernisettle live in the Millbrook area.

Vital Statistics.

Corrected by inward and outward transfer -

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	248	121	127
Illegitimate	20	14	6
	<u>268</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>133</u>

There were five Stillbirths - all legitimate.

The Birth Rate per 1000 population - 17.0  
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 .3  
Birth Rate, England & Wales 17.6

Deaths.

Total number (corrected by transfer) 224  
Death Rate per 1000 population 14.2  
Death Rate for England & Wales 11.6

The Registrar General's figures give 227 deaths. The Death Rate is rather higher than that for England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. There was one death, giving a rate of 3.6 per 1000 live and still births.

Infant Deaths. There were fourteen deaths of infants under 1 year. Nine of these were from Congenital causes or Premature Birth. This gives an Infantile Rate of 52 per 1000 live births compared with 49 for England & Wales. One of these deaths was an illegitimate child.

Appended is a table of causes of death and age incidence, which varies slightly from the Registrar General's totals -



Causes of Death & Age Incidence.

Disease	M	F	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 & over
Whooping Cough		1	1										
Tuberculosis )													
" Respiratory )	4	4				1	1	2	1	3			
" Other )	1	1						2					
Syphilite disease	1							1					
Influenza	2	5	1			1		1				2	2
Cancer													
Oesophagus (M)	3	2										2	3
Uterus (F)													
Stomach	2	5						1	1	1	1	1	3
Breast	1	5						1	1	3			1
Other	10	13							1	3	11		8
Diabetes	4	3						1	2			4	
Intra-Cranial	13	16							3	6	7		13
Vascular													
Heart Disease	26	22						2	3	4	10		29
Other circulatory	3	2						1				1	3
Bronchitis	7	5							1	1	6		4
Pneumonia	2	4	1	1						1	3		
Other respiratory		1											1
Ulcer of stomach	2								1	1			
Other digestive	3	5							1	2	1		4
Nephritis	2	4							1		1		4
Puerperal cause		1					1						
Premature birth	5		5										
Congenital													
Disease	3	1	4										
Suicide	2										2		
Road traffic	1										1		
Other violence	3	2	1						1				3
All other causes	11	11	1				1		1	1	2	4	12
	111	113	14	1			3	2	13	18	30	53	90

Section B.

(1) Public Health Officers.

There has unfortunately been a change as Mr. Grylls resigned and left in March to take up a new appointment at Wells, Somerset. This is a great loss, as apart from his efficiency, he was always so obliging and so pleasant to work with.

Mr. Williams is still on Service, but next year we shall have Mr. Grylls back again as he has been appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector, a very necessary appointment owing to the extra work which the new housing, and sewerage schemes will entail, in addition to the ordinary routine work.

(2) Laboratory Work is sent either to Truro or Plymouth.

(3) During the War ambulance facilities have been increased, as Callington now has an ambulance and the Civil Defence ambulance at Saltash was available.

(4) Nursing in the Home is done by District Nurses, who belong to the County Nursing Association.

(5) Maternity & Child Welfare work is controlled by the County Council, but there is an Infantile Welfare Clinic at Callington.



## Section C.

### Water Supply.

The wisdom of the Council in promoting, about ten years ago, a comprehensive scheme for supplying water in this district could not be more clearly demonstrated than by the experience of the last six years when the supply of water from the mains for Military and Civil requirements exceeded anything which could have been recognised were it not for the scheme that was just completed at the outbreak of war in 1939. The consumption of water from mains in the district amounted to 473,000 gallons per day and of this amount 363,000 gallons were supplied for Civil, Domestic and Trade purposes and 110,000 for H.M. Forces stationed within the district. It has therefore been a scheme which not only provided for the unprecedented demands of the Civil requirements of the district, but also has made a valuable contribution to the Nation's War effort for which the Council might well be proud.

At present it is estimated that 3456 of the 4339 houses in the district are supplied with water from the mains and the number is gradually increasing from year to year and will probably continue to do so until, as far as it may be practicable, every house in the district will have a pipe water supply.

The number of new services laid on from the main to private premises during the year is 79.

With the passing of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, such places in the district as are at present without pipe supplies will be reviewed and schemes put forward for the completion of the distribution mains throughout the district, and it is hoped the abolition of some of the less satisfactory supplies from private sources.

The disposal of the supply of water at Keveral to the Liskeard R.D.C. has not developed owing to apparently a very technical legal point which prevents the transfer of the scheme from one authority to another. There is, however, a possibility of an arrangement being arrived at which will enable the Liskeard Council to take advantage of the supply which is available from this source to eager potential consumers at Seaton in the Liskeard District.

### Sewerage.

Sewerage in the district remains almost unchanged but with the approach of post-war conditions schemes are in contemplation for most of the villages which are at present without any desirable sewerage arrangements. With sewerage, sewage disposal systems must necessarily follow and not a few problems are to be expected. Practically the whole of the parish of Calstock has to be provided for and the St. Ann's Chapel - Albaston - and Calstock area should possibly be considered under one comprehensive scheme and the Dimson - Gunnislake area under another with separate outfalls. Callington is badly in need of better sewerage and sewage treatment works in order to eliminate the present unsatisfactory and undesirable treatment of crude sewage on grass land and into water courses which are very distant from tidal waters. Quethiock, Hessenford, Sheviock, Antony, St. John, St. Germans and Cargreen are villages which will also have to be provided with sewerage and sewage disposal systems before they can be regarded as approaching a modern standard of sanitation, and with the water supply generally satisfactory in these places, schemes might reasonably be expected to develop.

The year 1945 will see the village of Pillaton provided with an up-to-date sewerage system and the removal of several very objectionable nuisances which at present exist throughout the village from individual drain outfalls in unsuitable places and in some cases on the public highway.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The system of refuse collection throughout the district remains unchanged but the extension of the sites for disposal at Callington and Treninnow is being provided for and additional land acquired at the former site, while negotiations are in progress in regard to the latter.



## Section D.

### Housing.

Statutory action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, has been necessary in regard to three houses in the district which were altogether unfit for human habitation and the owners have given the usual undertakings that the houses will not be used until rendered fit to the Council's satisfaction. Informal action has been taken with respect to several other houses and minor repairs effected. Two houses have been reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

## Section E.

### Milk.

The Council's Officers work in close collaboration with the County Officers with respect to improvement and inspection under the Dairies & Cowsheds Order, etc., and several of the farms and premises have been modernised.

### Meat & Other Foods.

Frequent inspections of shops and food depots have been made but comparatively little diseased or unfit meat discovered which is probably due to systematic inspections being made at the slaughter houses used outside our district. Practically no slaughtering of animals for human consumption takes place within the district.

At food depots large quantities of tinned meat, fish, milk, soup, dried eggs, etc., have been inspected and 1099 tins were found unsatisfactory and dealt with in collaboration with the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Food.

## Section F.

### Prevalence of & control over Infectious Disease.

During the year there was a marked decrease on the number of infectious diseases reported.

There was an epidemic of Whooping Cough, mostly in the Gunnislake and Calstock district; the total number of cases reported was 132. There were 45 cases of Measles, but these were spread out fairly evenly through the year. 25 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, practically all of them being in the Northern part of the district. There were three cases of Diphtheria, all in the Southern area and all were sent to Hospital. Two had been immunised.

Altogether six cases were treated at the Plymouth Isolation Hospital under the scheme by which this authority is entitled to send in cases of Infectious Disease: the other three were cases of Scarlet Fever, one being an evacuee.

There were 27 cases of Pneumonia, 3 of Erysipelas, and one case of Malaria, occurring in a Non-Civilian.

Table showing the Age Incidence & Sex of Infectious Diseases.

Age	Whooping Cough		Measles		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	5	3		2				
1 - 3	15	15	1	3	1			
3 - 5	15	14	2	5				
5 -10	27	26	10	13		1	3	8
10 -15	3	5	2	6			4	7
15 -25							1	1
25 & over		4 (inc)		1	1		1	
	65	67	15	30	2	1	9	16
			inc.					

	<u>Pneumonia</u>		<u>Erysipelas</u>		<u>Malaria</u> <u>(Non-Civilian).</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 5						
5 -15	4	4				
15 -45	7	4		1	1	
45 -65	3	3				
65 & over	1	1	1	1		
	15	12	1	2	1	
plus 1 N.C.						

Immunisation against Diphtheria has continued steadily throughout the year, mainly of children under 5. At Callington, where there is a Welfare Clinic, most of the children are immunised soon after attaining their first birthday. To estimate the exact percentages is difficult, as many of the children who were immunised 3 or 4 years ago, who were evacuees have returned to their own districts. During the year 132 children under 5 and 23 over 5 were fully immunised, and I estimate that 63% under 5 and 72% over 5 are protected.

#### Tuberculosis.

17 cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and one of other form were reported during the year. Four cases of respiratory and one of non-respiratory were recorded from the Death Returns, which hadnot been reported. Altogether there were eight Respiratory deaths and two of other forms.

There is a great delay in getting cases admitted for Sanatorium treatment, due partly to shortage of accommodation and partly to shortage of nurses. It is to be hoped that these difficulties may soon be overcome, as it is so important that early treatment should be available.

#### Venereal Disease.

Arrangements for treatment are made by the County Council, but there is fortunately no evidence of increase in the district of this disease.

I wish in conclusion to express my appreciation of the able assistance I have received during the year from your Surveyor, Mr. Govett and his staff. Mr. Govett has been alone most of the year and yet was always ready to do any investigations or inspections and his notes on the Sanitary conditions for this report are much appreciated.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

Hugh G. Robinson.



